(c) As per power delegated to Navratna PSUs, permission from the Government is not required in this case.

(d) In view of the expansion plans of SAIL, the requirement of imported coal from other countries may not come down inspite of the joint venture.

Coal shortage situation

3243. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a serious coal shortage situation is brewing at a number of major thermal power stations across the country, with the coal stock position in 20 stations being termed as "critical";

(b) if so, whether according to his Ministry the shortages are on account of a lower coal production by Coal India Limited between April and September, 2007;

(c) if so, the latest position; and

(d) the steps being considered to meet the coal shortage in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (c) There is no acute shortage of coal for power generation into stations having coal stock of less than 7 days consumption are considered critical. Central Electricity Authority, which monitors the coal stock position of 77 thermal power stations located all over the country reports the details of number of critical plants on daily basis and number/ specific plant keeps changing due to change in coal stock position. As on 20.4.2008, there are 22 number of critical thermal power stations on account of loading/unloading and movement constrants, short-term production constraints in the linked source etc. Though Coal India Limited (CIL)'s production during April-September, 2007 was less as compared to the larget, CIL's dispatches to power utilities were more than the Annual Action Plan target by liquidating pithead coal stock. The coal dispatches to power utilities during April-September, 2007 was 130.96 million tonnes as against target of 128.90 million tonnes, registering a growth of about 5.5% over corresponding period of previous year.

(d) The Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term), an inter-ministerial Committee allocates coal, on quarterly basis, from coal producing companies to various power utilities. A Sub-group under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal comprising the representatives of Ministry of Power, Railways and Central Electricity Authority monitors supply of coal to various power stations. Corrective measures are taken by the sub-group from time to time to ensure availability of sufficient supply of coal to various power utilities and to prevent any loss of generation of power due to non availability of coal.

Safety parameters in coal mines

3244. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre proposes to monitor safety parameters in coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to develop a suitable emergency response mechanism specific to the cases of inundation, fires, explosions, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) Monitoring of safety parameters in coal mines is primarily the responsibility of mine operators. The coal companies have established Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) for effective monitoring of safety aspects covering mine level, area level and company level. The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) Organisation under Ministry of Labour and Employment is vested with the responsiblity for monitoring of safety aspects of mines as per the statute *i.e.* Mines Act-1952 and the Rules and Regulations there-under. Further, safety parameters are reviewed at regular intervals by various Safety Committees at mines and company level, in which Trade Union representatives, DGMS officials and mine officials participate. At national level, the safety parameters in coal mines are reviewed periodically by the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines under the Chairmanship of Minister of Coal.

(c) and (d) Every mine is required to prepare a general plan of action for use in time of emergency such as inundation, fires and explosion as per the provisions of Coal Mines Regulations. Standing orders delineating the actions and persons responsible for various activities in time of emergency like inundation, fires and explosion are issued by the colliery management including the role of rescue personnel. A Crisis Management Plan in case of disasters is also put in place at Government level.

Development and allocation of captive coal blocks

3245. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the action plan of Government to development and allocate captive coal blocks with a view to boost coal production;

(b) the details fo such captive coal blocks that are proposed to be developed in Orissa; and

(c) to what extent this would help to bridge the gap between demand and supply in coal sector.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (c) In the 5th Meeting of the Energy Coordination Committee held on 10.02.2006, a view was taken that Ministry of Coal would identify adequate number of coal blocks aggregating to 20 billion tonnes of reserves. Accordingly, 81 coal blocks with geological reserves of about 20 billion tonnes were identified for allocation to eligible public/ private sector companies. Out of 81 coal blocks, 19 coal blocks are in the State of Orissa. Of the 19 coal blocks, 3 blocks *viz.* Meenakshi, Meenakshi B and Dip side of Meenakshi have been allocated to Orissa Ultra Mega Power Project. 6 other coal blocks *viz.* Ghogharpalli, Dip side of Goharpalli, Chaturdhara, Bankhui, Alaknanda and Sakhigopal B have been earmarked for allocation to power projects to be recommended by the Ministry of Power under tariff based competive bidding policy. Further, 3 coal blocks *viz* Mandakini, Rampia and Dip side of Rampia have been allocated to private companies for captive use.